

APPENDIX 7

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Cadet Great Start program mandatory?

No, but squadrons are strongly recommended to offer Great Start at least once per year.

Must the course be conducted during weekly squadron meetings?

Because having good squadron meetings is so important in retaining cadets, Great Start is designed primarily for use during weekly meetings. However, the course may also be conducted on a weekend.

Does Cadet Great Start have its own home page?

Yes: capmembers.com/greatstart

When conducting Great Start, how closely do instructors have to follow the Great Start lesson plans?

Lesson plans are provided to make it easy for squadrons to offer Great Start, and to provide some standardization across CAP. However, instructors are welcome to personalize the lesson plans by substituting different activities, or approaching the subject matter in a slightly different manner. What is most important is that the prospective and new cadets fulfill the Great Start learning objectives.

Who should lead Great Start?

The unit commander should appoint a senior member to serve as the course director to oversee the overall Great Start program. If possible, a cadet officer should serve as the cadet commander or flight commander, with responsibility for supervising and mentoring the students and cadet instructors.

Who may instruct at Great Start?

The course director may appoint senior members, cadet officers, and cadet NCOs as instructors. Cadet instructors work under senior supervision.

Are units obligated to fulfill any reporting requirements if they offer Great Start?

National Headquarters requests units report completion of Great Start using a CAPF 11, listing the graduating students and staff. This report is not mandatory, but will help CAP monitor the effectiveness of the Great Start program. Upon receiving the CAPF 11, National Headquarters updates the members' records to show they have graduated from Great Start or served on staff.

How do we obtain Great Start materials?

All Cadet Great Start materials are available online at capmembers.com/greatstart.

Is Great Start a new program, or is it replacing an existing program?

Great Start replaces the Cadet Orientation Course (CAPP 52-9, dated 1998) but takes an entirely new approach to cadet orientation and training.

What is the group or wing's role in Great Start?

Group and wing directors of cadet programs should encourage squadrons to host Great Starts. DCPs should mentor commanders as they implement Great Start for the first time. Groups and wings may host Great Start, but as explained in the preface, the program is designed for weekly unit meetings.

Where should I send my questions or comments about Great Start?

If you have a question, please start by talking with your DCP. If your problem remains unsolved, or if you have a suggestion about the curriculum, please contact National Headquarters via cadets@capnhq.gov.